

1 MS. ADRIENNE LEVATINO

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3 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Adrienne Levatino.

4 MS. LEVATINO: Thank you. My name is Adrienne
5 Levatino and I'm an executive director of Illinois Casino Gaming
6 Association and I am proud to be here today, on behalf of our
7 industry and its 10,000 employees. Riverboat gaming, simply put,
8 is an industry that has exceeded expectations and surpassed its
9 promises.

10 Since our first licensee set sail in September of
11 1991, the gaming tax payments alone have benefited the state of
12 Illinois by \$1.3 billion and have produced nearly \$400 million in
13 revenues for local governments. The industry's cumulative
14 payroll exceeds \$1.15 billion and we have provided employee
15 benefits at a cost of more than a quarter of a billion dollars.
16 We have purchased half a billion dollars in goods and services
17 from local vendors and have made capital investments exceeding
18 \$686 million.

19 A report was recently prepared by the Regional
20 Economics Applications Laboratory at the University of Illinois
21 for the Illinois Gaming Board. The report traced the impact of
22 expenditures by gaming patrons on a number of key economic
23 indicators. It found that riverboat casino gaming generated
24 directly and indirectly about \$1.2 billion worth of output in the
25 Illinois economy in 1995. Over 17,000 jobs were associated with
26 our industry and the income generated amounted to almost \$780
27 million. Total tax revenues associated with the industry's
28 activity amounted to \$330 million.

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1 Our executives and employees are generous volunteers
2 in their communities and our industry generously supports a wide
3 range of civic and charitable contributions. We also on our own
4 voluntary without any state legal requirements, established early
5 on a responsible gaming program funded entirely by the riverboat
6 gaming industry. The program has been recognized and
7 complimented by the National Council on Problem Gambling.

8 The state originally sanctioned riverboat gaming as a
9 means to stimulate economies of river towns which had been
10 abandoned by the other industries. We have indeed been a
11 powerful economic engine in our communities, driving investment
12 and revitalizing local economies. We have most importantly
13 created business partners, people who have learned new jobs and
14 new life skills, people who have invested in 401(k) plans with
15 us, people who have built businesses and realized dreams as a
16 result of our presence in their communities. We are proud of our
17 accomplishments and successes and we have worked hard for them.
18 Casino operators, casino investors and casino employees all have
19 contributed to a positive resurgence of local pride and local
20 economy and have done which seemed nearly impossible in this
21 great prairie state only a decade ago, breathed new life into
22 dying towns.

23 CHAIRMAN JAMES: Thank you.

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